

Weather Forecast

Continued warm, humid; showers, thunderstorm likely this afternoon, tonight. Tomorrow partly cloudy, little change in temperature.

Temperatures today—High, 76, at 10 a.m.; low, 64, at 4:48 a.m. Yesterday—High, 84, at 2:32 p.m.; low, 67, at 11:52 p.m.

(Full Report on Page A-2.)

The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

Guide for Readers

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★★★★

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MILITARY ALERTED FOR AID IN RAIL STRIKE

Union Leader Declares All Hope To Avert Walkout Has Vanished

ODT Seeks Help of All Nonrailway Transit Systems

BULLETIN

The Office of Defense Transportation today was considering a proposal to have military planes fly the mail and non-rail transportation systems handle their capacity of freight and passenger traffic if a strike paralyzes the railroads.

The Office of Defense Transportation, faced with a railroad strike set for 4 p.m. today, asked the Army and Navy and all non-rail transportation systems to prepare to step into the breach.

Airlines, water carriers, truck and bus systems were asked to assume, if necessary, what they could of hauling the Nation's freight and passengers.

A union statement that "the railroad strike is on" dampened already faint hopes that the rail transportation system of the country might be spared an immediate crippling.

Johnson Holds Conference. Director J. Monroe Johnson of ODT conferred with representatives of nonrail groups, including the armed forces, but the brief announcement on the meeting carried no hint of the plans devised, if any.

The ODT director also telegraphed the 18 brotherhoods who are not going along with the trainmen and engineers on today's scheduled strike. He asked them to continue handling the 37 carriers seized by the Government yesterday.

"The President having decided that the railroads are to be operated in the possession and control of the Government, I will appreciate your co-operation in preserving and continuing rail service," the messages to the non-striking unions said.

ODT Announcement. The announcement of Col. Johnson's conference on the use of air, water and highway carriers follows:

At 11 a.m. today, Col. J. Monroe Johnson, director of the ODT, held a conference with representatives of the ODT and Interstate Commerce Commission and of airlines, water carriers, highway carriers, and Army and Navy to select them to formulate plans for utilization of nonrail transportation facilities in case there is a stoppage of rail transportation.

There was much tension at headquarters of ODT, designated by President Truman yesterday to run the seized railroads, but little outward intimations of actual operating plans.

"Everybody is waiting for 4 p.m. to see what happens," an ODT spokesman told reporters. "It doesn't look too good now."

It was learned that the Air Transport Command is drawing up tentative plans for return to the priorities system which governed the movement of passengers, mail and cargo over domestic and overseas airlines during the war.

Rampack at Conference. Officials at the ODT conference today included former Representative Robert Rampack of Georgia, now executive vice president of the Air Transport Association. Mr. Rampack said prior to the meeting that the Government had made no emergency requests of the air transport industry.

The airlines were proceeding with business as usual in an effort to accommodate capacity bookings of ticket and reservation holders, it was said.

The Army Air Forces has more than 1,000 planes ready for emergency use and W. Y. Blanning, director of motor carriers for the Interstate Commerce Commission, said (See RAILROADS, Page A-3.)

Sailor Plunges to Death At Eleventh Street Bridge

A 26-year-old sailor climbed to the railing of the Eleventh Street Bridge at 6:45 a.m. today, poised for seconds, then plunged 27 feet to his death on Riverside drive before more than 40 bus passengers.

Police identified the sailor as Specialist Third Class Joseph W. Arnold, home address unknown, stationed at the Naval Receiving Ship, Eleventh and O streets S.E.

Policeman Lewis E. Berry, who was on the bus, saw the leap. He and other passengers saw the white-clad sailor scramble to the rail on his hands and knees and teetered for a moment before he dived head-first to the pavement below.

The policeman and several passengers shouted for the bus to stop and called for police and an ambulance immediately. The sailor was taken to the Dispensary at the Naval Gun Factory, where he was pronounced dead of a fractured skull and multiple body injuries.

Embargo Is Placed On Express at New York

NEW YORK, May 18.—An embargo against receipt of any further express shipment of perishables in New York City will go into effect at 1 p.m. today, the Railway Express Agency announced, and a spokesman said the order likely would become Nation-wide in scope.

Major Break in Coal Deadlock Next Week Appears Possible

Lewis Reported Considering Calling Meeting Of 250 Members of Policy Committee

By James Y. Newton

John L. Lewis today was reported considering summoning the United Mine Workers' 250-man Policy Committee to a meeting here next week in anticipation of a major break in the deadlocked soft coal contract controversy.

With only a week of the coal strike remaining, it was learned also that administration strategy calls for one last attempt at mediating the dispute between Mr. Lewis and the mine operators before resorting to sterner measures—Federal seizure of the mines and Government negotiation of a contract.

The last mediation try would take the form of a quietly called meeting of the disputants, probably at the White House. Following rejection by both sides of its arbitration proposal, President Truman asked Mr. Lewis and the operators to stand by for further conversations.

The miners' Policy Committee, which passes on all major decisions of Mr. Lewis, hardly would be convened, it was pointed out, unless there appeared the likelihood of some break leading to cancellation of the strike. Committee action would not be needed for a resumption of the strike since the group already ruled that the truce is to end next Saturday unless a contract is drafted in the meantime.

Federal officials said they did not expect a major development in coal over the week end. Their full attention at the moment is directed to the railroad dispute. Bearing out this opinion, Charles O'Neill, chief representative of the operators, returned to his home in New York for the week end late yesterday.

Officials said that failure of the railroad workers to heed Government seizure and the request of Mr. Truman to stay on the job would not necessarily affect their plans to take over the coal mines as a last-resort measure to prevent resumption of the strike. It was explained that Mr. Lewis would be sounded out before an order to seize is issued. There were some indications that he perhaps already has been approached on that point.

The AFL Executive Council, meantime, extended full support to its fellow member, Mr. Lewis, in his fight for a union health and welfare fund.

(See COAL, Page A-2.)

Republicans Advocate New Senate Approach To Welfare Fund Curbs

Republicans advocated a new Senate approach today in any legislation outlawing employer-financed welfare funds of the type demanded by John L. Lewis in the soft coal strike.

They argued the Senate should make clear it favored establishment of what they termed well-regulated health and welfare funds in industry, as distinguished from the union-controlled type fund sought by Mr. Lewis.

Their arguments were directed toward a modification of the pending proposal by Senator Byrd, Democrat of Virginia designed to ban employer-financed funds which unions would be free to spend as they wished.

Chairman Taft of the minority Steering Committee promised efforts to have this ban modified, but indicated that Senator Byrd would not budge on a provision specifying employers as well as unions must have a hand in administering such funds.

Might Affect Present Funds. Another Republican contention was that a number of welfare funds now in operation under collective bargaining agreements, might be affected by the amendment's requirement that representation in the control machinery be on the basis of employer and employee contribution.

Senator Taft said that while the Republicans want to make it impossible for unions to demand and receive production royalty or percentage payroll donations to spend as they choose, the minority does not want to block establishment of other welfare and benefit agreements.

Any wholesale desertion by the Republicans of the Byrd proposal might threaten its adoption by the Senate when opponents of pending restrictive labor disputes legislation finally stop talking and permit a vote. The Senate's week end recess halted their flow of words, but they seemed ready to resume Monday.

Senator Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi predicted, however, that what labor legislation supporters have called a filibuster would fizzle out and balloting could begin by midweek.

While he and Senator Byrd remained confident that the "anti-royalty" and several other proposals would be adopted, there were some indications that the Senate might be divided on the Byrd proposal.

(See STRIKE CONTROL, Pg. A-2.)

W., M. & A. Bus Strike Slated for Midnight

Union employees of the Washington, Marlboro & Annapolis Motor Lines, Inc., have voted overwhelmingly to reject the company's wage offer and will walk out at midnight unless the union's proposal is accepted.

J. M. Holcombe, president of Local 1365, Amalgamated Association of Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees, AFL, said that more than two-thirds of the union's 190 members voted against the company's proposal of \$1.06 an hour and will insist on \$1.10 an hour as demanded by declaring that "this is not a strike." Mr. Holcombe pointed out that the existing contract expires at midnight and "we can't work without a contract."

He added that union representatives will not meet with the company unless the union's wage demands are met.

Headquarters Set Up in New York By Engineers

NEW YORK, May 18.—Thomas J. Harkins, representative of the Eastern division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, said today that "the railroad strike is on" and "any hope of averting it ended when the union leaders left Washington to return to Cleveland."

Mr. Harkins made the statement as he began setting up strike headquarters for the brotherhood in a midtown hotel. He said instructions to all workers in his union in this area would be issued from his offices.

Meanwhile, Wilbur Reed, vice president of the railroad trainmen with headquarters in the same hotel, declined to discuss the situation and said all orders would have to come from his union's headquarters in Cleveland.

No Meeting in Sight. "The strike is on," he added. "The matter is in the same status as it was before the Government took over."

Mr. Harkins estimated that there were 12,000 engineers in the New York area and that there were three trainmen for each engineer.

Asked on Workers' Rights. In response to the question of whether the men would work for the Government, Mr. Harkins laughed and asked:

"What did they do in the tugboat strike? They didn't work."

"But this is a much bigger matter," a reporter interposed.

Yes, but the principle is the same, Mr. Harkins added. "The Government has a lot of rights and I assume the President of the United States was fully advised. But we still have certain rights that cannot be denied by the President or by anyone else."

In Cleveland the outlook in event of a strike was summarized as follows:

Industry, emerging from the effects of a crippling coal strike, would face shutdowns within a week.

Food shortages would develop rapidly, with perishables disappearing from store shelves in a matter of hours.

Travelers would be stranded away from homes.

Buses could handle only a fraction of train passengers.

Trucks could handle only a small percentage of freight traffic.

The Nation's mail service would be disrupted.

Called for 4 P.M. The strike is called for 4 p.m. standard time in each affected area. Thus, a strike will require an overall time of three hours to become effective over the Nation.

Not affected in the strike call are troop, hospital and milk trains. Brotherhood officials have instructed their members that so far as their legal right to strike is concerned there is no difference between mail train and any other train.

Brotherhood members employed on Canadian lines have been instructed to remain in service.

Other brotherhood instructions: "No man in road service involved in the strike will perform any service after the hour set to strike, unless he already has begun a trip and actually has left the terminal."

"If the train has left the terminal he will complete the trip and deliver the engine and train at the end of the run, or tie-up point."

Men in other than road service will leave the service at the appointed time.

The strike order involves approximately 100,000 men.

U. S. Troops on Alert In Jap Food Protest

TOKYO, May 18.—American troops in the Tokyo-Yokohama area today were placed under alert orders as organizers of a mass demonstration claimed that tens of thousands would gather at the imperial palace gates tomorrow demanding more food.

A second gathering was planned for Yokohama.

Americans, as is their policy, will not interfere, but will be prepared to protect American property and lives if trouble develops.

Test Blasts With TNT Indicate Atom Bomb Waves 8 Feet High

Patuxent River Equipment Forecasts 20,000-Foot Water Plume at Bikini

(Picture on Page A-2.)

By W. H. Shippen, Jr.

Touching off half a ton of TNT in the shallow waters of the Patuxent River, Navy technicians last week blew a column of spray up some 1,000 feet to duplicate as nearly as possible in miniature a subsurface atomic explosion at least 40,000 times as powerful.

Conditions for the underwater test in Bikini lagoon next July or August were scaled down to model size by oceanographers at Navy headquarters in Washington. They are seeking a formula to predict how much water and steam will be hurled into the air and how the waves will react in the first atomic experiment of its kind in history.

Tests on a small scale were begun two months ago at the Naval Mine Warfare Test Station, Solomons Island, Md., with initial charges of a tenth of a pound of TNT. The charges were increased and conditions modified accordingly to establish the relationship between the power of the explosion and the reaction of the water at various depths and distances.

Delicate instruments were set up, as they will be at Bikini, to record underwater impulses and the size, speed and range of wave movements, however small. Photographs of the reactions were taken from the air and surface. Technicians believe these tests, graduated to the scale of the model, will enable them to calculate reactions from almost any conceivable underwater blast.

When a model test with 1,000 pounds of TNT was proposed, some (See SHIPPEN, Page A-2.)

Lord Boswell Scratched, Cutting Withers Field to 8

NEW YORK, May 18.—Lord Boswell, big horse of the Maine Chance Farms in pre-Kentucky Derby speculation, was scratched from the \$25,000 Withers Mile today at about the same time the Long Island Railroad announced it would run its special trains to Belmont Park.

Lord Boswell's withdrawal cut the field to eight and put the winner of fourth money in the Derby and second place in last Saturday's Preakness on the sidelines along with Assault, Texas-bred winner of both big races this spring. Assault was not entered.

The Long Island Railroad said its special race trains would run to Belmont, but would not promise return accommodations in view of the strike call set for 4 p.m.

Last night's heavy rain left the track slippery. With Lord Boswell absent Maine Chance still is represented by Perfect Bahram, although Du Pont, Jr.'s Hampden moved into the favorites' role.

Sweden Accepts Talk Bid

STOCKHOLM, May 18.—(P.)—The foreign office yesterday said Sweden had accepted an invitation to discuss German assets frozen in Sweden in a Washington conference late this month. American, British and French representatives will participate.

Byrnes Sees Truman To Report on Paris Ministers' Conference

Secretary Will Speak To Nation Monday On Peace Parleys

By the Associated Press

Secretary of State Byrnes returned from Paris today and immediately reported to President Truman on the failure of the Foreign Ministers' Conference so far to agree on European settlements.

Mr. Byrnes arrived aboard an Army plane at 10:35 a.m. and announced that he would report to the Nation by radio Monday night on the conference—where on almost every major issue the split was widened between Russia and the Western powers, the United States and Britain.

The Secretary went directly from the airport to the State Department. Although he told newsmen that he was weary after his 24-hour trip, he went across the street in a few minutes to see the President.

Otherwise, the Secretary, who had left for the Paris conference with a relatively small hope of success in writing European peace treaties, had nothing to say on the outcome of the meeting which many diplomats termed an almost complete failure.

Mr. Byrnes was accompanied home by his principal advisers: Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan. The Secretary is slated to return to Paris by June 15 for resumption of the sessions in an attempt again to write peace treaties for Europe.

Senator Connally told newsmen that Secretary Byrnes had played (See BYRNES, Page A-2.)

Col. Curtis Reid Named Head of District Jail

Designation of Col. Curtis Reid, official of the Federal Bureau of Prisons just released from active duty with the Army, as superintendent of the District Jail to succeed Claude O. Botkin, was announced today by Commissioner Guy Mason.

Mr. Mason said Mr. Botkin is now on leave but would not return to District penal service.

Col. Reid is the first Federal prison expert to be brought in by J. Ellis Overland, warden of the Federal penitentiary at Terre Haute, Ind., who has been loaned by Attorney General Clark for a 60-day period to reorganize administration of the District Jail, from which there have been several recent escapes, and other adult penal institutions.

Truman to Leave by Plane For Missouri Tomorrow

President Truman is leaving Washington by plane at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow for Kansas City preparatory to receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree at William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo., Monday.

To avoid the congestion at National Airport, the President and his party will take off in the "Sacred Cow" from Bolling Field, as will a plane carrying reporters.

The President plans first to see his 93-year-old mother, Mrs. Martha Truman, who was in bed with a cold on Mother's Day when he telephoned her.

Miss Mary Truman, the President's sister, said their mother's condition was not serious, but that she was remaining in bed.

Mr. Truman will motor to Liberty Monday morning for the college exercises, scheduled just before 1 o'clock. He will return to Washington immediately after the ceremonies.

Nats Cancel Game With Indians To Get to Chicago Before Strike

Griffith Suggests Leagues Call Off Play Today to Protect Sunday Schedules

By the Associated Press

The Washington-Cleveland baseball game scheduled in Cleveland today was called off in the major leagues' first move to protect Sunday baseball schedules in the face of the threatening railroad strike.

The action was taken after a long-distance telephone conversation between Clark Griffith, president of the Washington club and Will Harridge, president of the American League.

Cancelling the game today will allow the Nats to be "in transit" to Chicago where they are scheduled for a double-header tomorrow before the railroad strike deadline set for 4 p.m. today.

"The railroads will complete the movement of anything in transit by that time," Mr. Griffith told a reporter after talking with Mr. Harridge.

Mr. Harridge planned to call all American League owners "and get their reaction to postponing Saturday's games," he added.

"This probably would necessitate postponement of all of today's games but it would assure us getting in Sunday's play with double-headers scheduled all around," Mr. Griffith declared.

Mr. Griffith explained that by cancelling games today the American League clubs "will have time to arrange for transportation by air" for future games.

In 1918, because of wartime conditions, the big league cut their season short," Mr. Griffith recalled, "but nothing has ever caused our season to be cut short."

(See BASEBALL, Page A-2.)

Truman Plea to Stalin To Aid in Food Relief Reported Rejected

Previous Commitments Make U. S. Request Too Late, Reply Contends

By the Associated Press

Anglo-American hopes of enlisting Russia in a united fight on world famine received a fresh setback today from the report that Prime Minister Stalin has turned down an appeal from President Truman for Soviet participation.

The Truman-Stalin exchange was reported by a strategically placed official, who refused to be quoted by name, but asserted the Russian reply contained previous Soviet relief commitments made the American request too late.

Mr. Truman was not content with the reply, according to unofficial reports, and apparently still hopes to get Moscow to reconsider its aloof attitude toward the world food problem.

Soviet Pledges Cited. However, Soviet Commentator Peter Orlov declared in a Moscow radio broadcast today that Russia had pledged more than 1,000,000 tons of wheat and corn to Finland, France, Poland and Romania since the surrender of Germany.

Russia's own food supplies are "still limited," Orlov said. Also in Moscow, Marshall Mac-

(See FOOD, Page A-2.)

Sale of Bread by Slice Reported; Deliveries to Be Cut Further

Several Bakeries Expect to Get Only 60% of Supplies

Sale of bread by the slice instead of by the loaf was reported today as the baking industry prepared to cut deliveries further next week because of diversion of wheat to famine-stricken countries.

One bakery manager, who asked that his name be withheld, said that late-in-the-day sales of slices of bread, with a limit of three slices, were reported to him as prevalent in food stores in poorer sections of the Capital.

He said there was some hysteria about the bread situation, with women telephoning him to beg to be allowed to purchase bread—not for themselves, but for their children.

Deliveries of several large bakeries were 75 per cent of normal and (See BREAD, Page A-2.)

Washington Bakers Threaten to Strike Over Take-Home Pay

Threat of a bakers' strike in the District was added today to the critical labor situation.

Charles B. McClosky, business agent for Local 118, Bakery and Confectionery Workers International of America, said he will call an Executive Board meeting next week to discuss putting a strike vote to the membership. He placed his membership at 1,000, said they produce 80 per cent of the bread in Washington and that the large bakeries here are completely organized.

Louis A. Spies, attorney who represents the employers in negotiations with the union, said he had heard nothing about a possible walkout.

Mr. McClosky said shortening of (See BAKERS, Page A-2.)

Strike to Slash D. C. Food and Gasoline Supply

Distributors Rely On Trucks, Ships To Avert Crisis

Drastic reductions in local food and gasoline supplies will follow a prolonged shutdown of the rail transportation serving the Capital, but no immediate cuts are anticipated.

A check of local distributors today developed a gloomy picture of gradual slowdown in Washington business if railroad engineers and trainmen refuse to work for the Government.

Possibility of cancelled service after the 4 p.m. strike deadline was called to the attention of prospective travelers at Union Station, but the selling of tickets continued.

Business to Continue. Bernard F. Tolson, manager for the Washington Terminal Co., said the rule would be "business as usual" as long as the trains ran. The terminal firm was included in the Federal seizure order, but, as with other units taken over, actual administration remains in the hands of the private owners.

Mr. Tolson said he had received no indication as to whether yard crews would man trains after 4 p.m. Postmaster Vincent Burke said City Post Office was continuing normal mail movements. Asked what would happen after 4 p.m., Mr. Burke said:

"We'll just have to wait and see." He said he had not received special instructions from the Post Office Department as yet but presumed an emergency policy would be announced if the tie-up materialized on schedule.

Food distributors here did not minimize the probable effect on flow of edibles into the city, but emphasized that Washington would not go hungry.

"Naturally everything will be affected, and the matter of food will strike closest to home," one said. "But we'll have food in any event."

He pointed out that the food industry had not been relying on any one mode of transportation, and that it was bringing a large volume of supplies into the Capital by truck and boat.

Predict Food Priority. However, it was considered too early to estimate the possible effect of the shutdown on the normal road and water service accustomed to ship mainly by rail would be new competition for truck traffic.

Service, it was pointed out, but it was felt food would retain a priority. Milk supply was believed safe. Much of it reaches dairies here by truck and milk trains are exempted from the unions' strike order.

Gasoline distributors did not see a gasoline shortage as an early probability, but warned that loss of rail transportation could be expected to produce a sharp increase in (See DISTRIBUTION, Page A-2.)

Murder Charge Filed After Tavern Fight

A murder charge has been placed against a 20-year-old former coast guardsman following a fist fight in a Fairfax County tavern last night which resulted in the death of William Williamson, 39, R. F. D. 4, Alexandria.

Charged with the offense was Calvin Edward Dove, Ingleside, who was being held without bail in the Fairfax County jail pending a hearing today by Trial Justice Robert Stump. Police said he had recently been discharged from the service in which he was a seaman, first-class. The tavern where the fight occurred is about 6 miles south of Alexandria on U. S. Route 1.

According to police, Williamson was sitting in a tavern booth with Frank Witham, who lived in the same rooming house, near Alexandria, in Fairfax County. Mr. Williamson was said to have objected to rough language being used by a party across the aisle where Dove sat.

According to a version of the incident given police, Mr. Williamson ordered Dove, who is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 204 pounds, to get up. In the fight that followed, Mr. Williamson was knocked down. When he failed to get up, Mr. Witham took him to the Alexandria Hospital. Upon arrival, he was pronounced dead.

Meanwhile, Dove, who sustained a severely lacerated hand and arm and was taken to the hospital, where he was arrested by Sgt. Cecil B. Brown and Officer James A. Thomas. Dr. Nelson Podolnick, Fairfax coroner, has ordered an autopsy.